

Docket# 02-278  
DA 05-1346

COMMENT RE: JOINT PETITION

We have greatly enjoyed the increased peace at our home since we registered our telephone number on the Indiana DNC list. Our experience since this law went into effect is that only charitable organizations now cold-call us, and we like it this way. We still purchase new services and items from businesses, but it is at our discretion, at our prompting, and we are not harassed by telemarketers that are trying to offer us products/services that we do not need. In fact, for several years we chose not to encourage any telemarketers by purchasing their services, whether we wanted them or not.

I believe that the joint petition to forbid states from regulating telemarketing is a terrible idea. States should have the right to protect their own citizens from nuisance calls. I believe that the Indiana Telephone Privacy Law serves as a deterrent to keep unethical telemarketers from making unsolicited nuisance calls that harass consumers that do not want their services. The entire point of any DNC list is that it is voluntary, meaning that only those who specifically do not want unsolicited calls will register. This assuredly leaves many numbers that are available for telemarketing targeting, so I don't understand the industry argument that it harms their business. Ethical businesses should revel in such a list, as it should prevent them from contacting those who are uninterested in their services. I also do not agree with the argument that keeping up with such a list is burdensome; we live in an electronic age, where periodically updating a database should be cheap and fast.

Again, the need for the Indiana Telephone Privacy Act is to prevent or at least deter unethical businesses from harassing those who do not wish to be solicited. This is based on personal experience---in the past our family has received multiple cold-calls from the same organizations who tried desperately to sell us something, despite our repeated statements to them stating:

- 1) We have a family policy of never encouraging telemarketers by taking their products/services, whether we need them or not, and
- 2) Please remove us from your telemarketing list, as we have no intention of changing this policy.

Please do not keep states from implementing controls over telephone privacy. We like having regained better control over the telephone service that we pay for the right to keep in our home.